

CLAIMS:

1. A patient care apparatus comprising
a suspension system and
a pair of modules that are coupleable together to form a cart and that
are separable for attachment to different portions of the suspension system.
2. The patient care apparatus of claim 1, wherein the suspension system is
configured to move a first module of the pair of modules between a raised position
suspended above a floor and a lowered position on the floor.
3. The patient care apparatus of claim 2, wherein the suspension system is
configured to move a second module of the pair of modules between an upper
position suspended above the floor and a lower position in which the second module
is coupleable to the first module.
4. The patient care apparatus of claim 3, wherein the suspension system
comprises a first lifter to move the first equipment support module between the raised
and lowered positions and a second lifter to move the second equipment support
module between the upper and lower positions.
5. The patient care apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pair of modules are
stacked when coupled together to form the cart.
6. The patient care apparatus of claim 1, wherein the suspension system
comprises a first vertically movable arm and a second vertically movable arm, a first
module of the pair of modules is coupled to the first vertically movable arm, and a
second module of the pair of modules is coupled to the second vertically movable
arm.
7. The patient care apparatus of claim 1, wherein the suspension system
comprises a first service column to which a first module of the pair of modules is
coupleable and a second service column to which a second module of the pair of
modules is coupleable.
8. The patient care apparatus of claim 1, wherein the suspension system
comprises at least one arm to which the pair of modules are coupleable and the at least
one arm is adapted to couple to a ceiling for pivoting movement.
9. The patient care apparatus of claim 1, wherein the suspension system
comprises a pair of arm assemblies and each module of the pair of modules is
coupleable to a respective one of the arm assemblies.

10. The patient care apparatus of claim 9, wherein the suspension system further comprises a pair of service columns and each service column of the pair of service columns is coupled to a respective one of the arm assemblies.

11. The patient care apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the pair of modules is configured to carry at least one of IV equipment and ventilation equipment.

12. A patient care apparatus comprising
a first arm assembly,
a second arm assembly,
a first module coupleable to first arm assembly, the first module having a set of wheels that engage a floor when the first module is decoupled from the first arm assembly, and
a second module coupleable to the second arm assembly, the second module being decoupleable from the second arm assembly and coupleable to the first module to form a cart.

13. The patient care apparatus of claim 12, wherein one of the first and second modules has a cavity and the other of the first and second modules has a connector that is received in the cavity when the second module is stacked on top of the first module.

14. The patient care apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first arm assembly includes a first lifter that is operable to raise and lower the first module.

15. The patient care apparatus of claim 14, wherein the first arm assembly comprises a first service column and the first lifter extends and retracts from the first service column.

16. The patient care apparatus of claim 14, wherein the second arm assembly includes a second lifter that is operable to raise and lower the second module.

17. A patient care apparatus for use in a room comprising a ceiling, the patient care apparatus comprising

a suspension system comprising a first arm system to be attached to the ceiling, a second arm system to be attached to the ceiling, a first service column depending from the first arm system, a second service column depending from the second arm system, a first lifter attached to the first service column, and a second lifter attached to the second service column,

a first equipment support module configured to support equipment for care of a patient and comprising a rolling element to facilitate movement of the first equipment support module along a floor and an upper portion to be attached to and detached from the first lifter, and

a second equipment support module configured to support equipment for care of the patient and to be attached to and detached from the second lifter, the first lifter being configured to move the first equipment support module between an upper position suspended above the floor and a lower position in which the rolling element engages the floor, the second lifter being configured to move the second equipment support module between upper and lower positions suspended above the floor, the first equipment support module and the second equipment support module being configured for stacking the second equipment support module on top of the upper portion of the first equipment support module when the upper portion of the first equipment support module is detached from the first lifter and the second lifter lowers the second equipment support module onto the upper portion of the first equipment support module.

18. The patient care apparatus of claim 17, wherein each service column comprises a medical gas service outlet.

19. The patient care apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first equipment support module is configured to carry ventilation equipment and the second equipment support module is configured to carry IV equipment.

20. The patient care apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first and second equipment support modules form a cart when the second equipment support module is stacked on the first equipment support module and the cart is adapted to be coupled to a movable patient support to be moved in unison with the patient support.